

DAYS WITH MME. BLAVATSKY.

Interesting Reminiscences of Visits to the Theosophist.

STRANGE REVELATIONS BY HER.

Stories Told of the Past of the Writer That Were Startling Indeed, But Prognostications as to the Future Not Correct—Peculiar Revolver Incident.

As the subject of theosophy is exciting considerable interest in Honolulu at the present time, and indeed has been the occasion of much discussion and comment throughout the United States for several years past, anything with reference to the famous author of the system is likely to be interesting.

In the summer of 1875, while in a law office in New York with William Q. Judge, the present head of the order in the United States, Madame Blavatsky came into the city from Europe. Her advent and doctrine aroused some newspaper comment. Mr. Judge, I believe, was personally acquainted with Colonel Olcott and, through him, procured an introduction to the Madame. One afternoon he asked if I would like to meet her with some other people holding various peculiar views. Of course, I was only too glad to have the opportunity. In a few days an appointment was made, and with Mr. Judge I went one evening to where Madame Blavatsky was residing on Irving Place. We found a dimly lighted room, with a few rather interesting and curious people already assembled.

Sitting round a large table, Madame and some of the more prominent thinkers, like Colonel Olcott, began discussing some of the propositions of spiritualism which were then exciting attention. They had much to say of recent discoveries in Egypt and the Orient. They discussed the meaning of the hieroglyphics. It was stated that the key had been found which opened the way for those who became sufficiently possessed of the theosophical idea to perform many wonderful things, and to exercise immense spiritual power. It was said that one, thoroughly acquainted with the signs and symbols used by the magicians of Egypt, could again accomplish many of the strange and apparently miraculous acts performed by them.

MADAME BLAVATSKY'S APPEARANCE. The Madame herself was to me quite as interesting as the subject discussed. She was very large, heavily built, very fleshy, with a heavy face, bright, sharp eyes, and the marks of intelligence and power; but, to my thinking, the face also seemed a gross one.

It so happened that I sat at one end of the table while she was at the other, and every once in a while she observed what I was doing. A revolver lay before me and, seeing that it was not loaded, I occasionally handled it, slowly cocking it, watching the revolution of the barrel, while listening to the discussion. Now and then it caught at half-cock, though I could not see why. Presently Madame observed:

"Be careful; you will hurt yourself with that pistol."

"Why," I said, "what is the matter with it?"

"Nothing," she replied, "it is in perfect order, but sometimes John, in a spirit of mischief, meddles with its working and it catches, and, if you are not careful, it may suddenly snap and hurt your fingers."

This was interesting, and I looked at the revolver again very carefully with renewed interest, trying to make up my mind as to who "John" might be, and wherein his interference consisted. Finally either myself or Mr. Judge asked:

"Who is John, and where is he?"

"John," said Madame, "is a knight, who lived during the time of Queen Elizabeth, and he is often with me. That is he," she said, pointing to a small picture in an oval frame hanging on the wall.

I glanced at it again, for I had looked at it several times during the evening with some curiosity, for it appeared as though a red rose had been forced between the glass and the picture. Both Mr. Judge and myself examined the picture and observed that it appeared to be of a knight of about the period of Queen Elizabeth, apparently from his dress. To me he seemed to wear a peculiar sinister expression. The eyes seemed to glisten (though this may have been from my imagination) and, looking closely, it appeared to me that a rose had been forced between the glass and the picture mat.

"Why is the rose there?" I asked of Madame.

"It comes itself," she said; "sometimes it is there and is again suddenly removed."

This again I found to be extremely interesting, and watched the picture furtively during the remainder of the evening, hoping to see the rose disappear, but it did not.

A TEST.

After a conversation of several hours, about midnight the company began to break up, and, talking with one and another very graciously, in a few minutes Madame reached our end of the room and I had a few minutes very pleasant conversation with her. I stated that while never having had an opportunity to test the so-called power of looking into the future, or of calling up the past, at the same time I had always felt much interest in it and would be very much pleased if she chose to give some exhibition of her power. She said that she would do so and asked if she should give me some statement of myself.

Knowing or believing that I was an absolute stranger to her, I said this would give me great pleasure. Whereupon she took one of my hands, examined it carefully and made a number of statements with regard to my character, and various matters about my-

self which I believed to be correct. She then placed herself in front of me (we were both standing) and took what looked to me like an oval gutta-percha or rubber frame or plate, either slightly concave or convex, I could not tell which, and, placing one end against her waist, with her hand brought the other end out about right angles to her body. Then, looking into this black mirror, for such it was, being highly polished, she slowly stated correctly the date of my birth, also under what star or heavenly system I was born. She then gave a number of incidents with regard to my past life which I found reasonably correct. She stated that I was not American born but came from a foreign country, and then said, as nearly as I can recollect:

"I see a young man sitting at a table reading." (She then described his appearance which certainly corresponded with my own at that time, and as it was upon an occasion which might have been what she described.)

"He reads a while; then throws down his book with an expression of uncertainty and discontent; then reads again; he goes to the window, looks down upon the lawn below apparently watching some people playing something with balls and sticks; then he reads again, but finally throws down his book and says, 'I'll read no more of it,' and, putting on his coat, goes out and joins the players."

HER ABILITY ADMITTED.

As it did present an exact reproduction of what had occurred only a few days previously, I was compelled with considerable surprise to admit that it might apply very well indeed. Continuing to look into her mirror, Madame made several other observations with regard to my future life, and finally closed by saying:

"The crown of your life is very near at hand but a dark shadow comes across in your twenty-ninth or thirtieth year," with which she closed. I was interested to learn what the dark shadow was but failed to do so. She only shook her head gravely without giving any information. I then asked Madame if she would allow Mr. Judge and myself to take away the revolver for a careful examination, as we were anxious to ascertain whether or not it were in fact in perfect order. With rather an impressive manner, she replied:

"Oh, certainly; take it, you will find that everything is all right, and I am very glad to have you make the examination," after which we withdrew.

The next day Mr. Judge, his brother, now a lawyer in New York City, a young man by the name of William years, and another whose name I have forgotten, and I, during the forenoon in the law office took the revolver to pieces as carefully as possible but could discover nothing wrong, whereupon Mr. Judge rather triumphantly said:

"You would better have believed Madame last night for you see nothing is wrong."

"Oh, wait," I replied, "none of us are gunsmiths; let's have this thing more carefully looked into. We'll take it to the Remington Arms Company, which had an office and safe room just above on Broadway, and let them look at it." Putting it together as carefully as possible, we all went up there and, handing the weapon to a clerk, asked him if anything was wrong. Handling it with the precision of a skilled operator, he replied:

"Yes; something is the matter with the half-cock, but I will make it all right in a moment," whereupon he ran down stairs to the work shop. I afterward regretted that some one of us did not go with him, but we did not think of it at the time. In a minute or two he returned and, handing us the revolver, said:

"It is all right now. The fine hair spring that controls the half-cock was broken; here it is," and he handed us the broken spring. This satisfied my curiosity as to John's fooling with the pistol, and we returned the weapon with a note, thanking Madame for her courtesy, by the hands of a messenger boy.

ANOTHER CASE.

A few days later, at Mr. Judge's invitation, we again called upon Madame Blavatsky and found an interesting company present. Mr. Judge was greeted with much effusion. Madame then turned to me and her eyes flashing fire, she angrily said:

"Perhaps you think, Mr. C., that my spirit was not with you and that I did not hear your scornful and contemptuous remarks about that pistol, but I was there and I heard every word and knew every thought that you were thinking."

I was completely surprised and hardly knew what to reply but tried to tell Madame that she was mistaken about any contemptuous or scornful remarks, but she would not be appeased and, during the long evening that followed, I had an uncomfortable sense of an occasional wrathful glance from her. The discussion that ensued that evening was very much the same as on the former occasion, only that it entered deeper into the mysteries than at that time. I regretted that I did not make notes, for it was extremely interesting and for many years I remembered much of what took place. At the present time, however, I hardly remember anything except the statement made by Madame that one who was studious and became absolutely possessed of the spirit of inquiry and of truth might, at a moment's notice and by the mere force of a wish and desire, be transported to India, or China, or any other point, and that such a person might hold free communion with spirits or with spiritual things. Madame called the attention of the company to the fact that thirteen were gathered around the table, which had some significance apparently.

Some time after midnight she suddenly exclaimed, "But why need we only meet and talk; why not materialize; why not, at the present moment, form a society and undertake the study of truth in connection with this great and absorbing subject?"

The others agreed, and it was also understood and agreed specifically that those who joined the society for the study of theosophy should allow nothing else to interfere or step between them and the pursuit of this sacred subject. While I was very desirous of knowing more upon this topic, I felt that I had no right to throw aside everything else, and therefore could not join the society; so,

when those gathered around the table, at Madame's command, joined hands and arose to repeat the promise, one to another, and to form the society, which was then done, I withdrew and kept my seat. Madame, at the other end of the room, leaned toward me, her eyes giving out an angry light, and motioned for me to stand up and join hands, but I shook my head and must confess that I was rather embarrassed to appear to stand in the way in any degree of the object in view. As soon as these preliminaries were over and the company began to disperse and converse with one another, Madame came quickly to where I was standing and, in an emphatic, perhaps an angry voice, said:

"Perhaps, Mr. C., you do not think that I fully understand and appreciate what it is that comes between your spirit and mine that prevents your yielding to me, but I do; there is another person who stands between you and me, but I will gain that influence yet." After a few more remarks, Mr. Judge and I withdrew. He said, as we went away, that I seemed to have aroused Madame's ire, which fact I regretted.

LETTERS FROM MR. JUDGE.

I saw nothing further of Madame Blavatsky but was aware that the Theosophical Society or America was organized; that it began active work, and that, within a short time, many other branch societies had been established throughout the country. After Madame's death, which occurred a few years ago, Mr. William Q. Judge, who had, as I understand, been in India with her and who had traveled elsewhere quite extensively as an influential and important member of the order, became the head of the organization in the United States. This is, however, given upon mere hearsay. I have letters of Mr. Judge's written several years ago; none recently. I know that he has been through the United States lecturing upon Theosophy and has interested large audiences. Prior to his becoming a member of the society, he was a member of an evangelical church in Brooklyn, but I have understood since that he has withdrawn. In his letters to me he expressed contempt for the trammels of Christianity and hoped that I had become freed of its servile bondage.

With regard to Madame's prophecies about myself, my own plans were changed shortly after the meetings at Irving Place, and I was married in the following October. In December I received a telegram from Kalakaua to return to the Islands to occupy a Government position, which I did. In my twenty-ninth year my eldest child was born. Whether these events operated as a fulfillment of Madame's prophecies, I cannot say. Certainly I have always regarded the birth of my eldest son as a bright and happy incident instead of a dark event. Upon my return in February, 1876, among many letters which were handed me was one which excited the interest and curiosity of my friends. The envelope was covered with cabalistic signs. I looked at it in surprise, not being able to guess for a moment who it came from, but it flashed across my mind that it might be from Madame and, when I opened it, read: "Madame Blavatsky presents her compliments to the Attorney-General of the Sandwich Islands and begs him to try and recollect her prophecy with regard to his future."

In the foregoing notes I have tried to relate facts only without color, leaving it for those who read to draw their own conclusions. Probably most of those who have had the interest to follow this new ism are aware of the expose which took place in India; but even in view of that and with what may appear to disinterested persons as patent fraud, is it not possible that devotees of Theosophy and worshippers of Madame Blavatsky may honestly believe in the truth of her alleged miracles?

Honolulu, Oct. 15, 1894. C.

Tries to be Funny.

MR. EDITOR: Was it Mark Twain, or was it Artemus Ward, who said he was saddest when he sang, and so were his hearers? It might be said of Mr. Bush he is funniest when he tries hardest to be sober.

Read the following translation from Nupeka ka Oiaio, of October 12th last:

"As we weigh the character of our present queen, we find that she has an eminent standing as a true Christian. In all of her utterances and deeds she has been guided by the Holy Spirit to think and to execute the right. Like all of the Hawaiian sovereigns, she is firmly set in her own way."

"Scripture says: 'Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.' The queen has attained this state, and praise be to God for graciously guiding her amid the troubles men have raised up about her, using them as a means to stimulate in her a greater growth of goodness, and a faith that is wonderful, filling her with confidence that God will look upon her and her nation in their bruised and sorrowful, but sinless, inoffensive condition, while subject to the persecutions of the strangers to whom they gave hospitality and shelter when these were poor and hard."

"This teaches us to imitate her example, to be steadfast as she is steadfast, in standing by the right; to be full of faith as she is, albeit that the deeds of this faith have by fault-finders been used as levers to overturn her throne."

"If indeed our hopes of worldly good are cut off, but we are born again into holiness out of this poverty, how much greater will be the blessedness than the possession of all this world's wealth and glory, with its trellis and indifference. There is a kingdom beyond this in which we shall ever dwell amid secure delights, free forever from the toils and cares of time."

E.

Thanks are due J. J. Williams, the photographer, for pictures which have greatly aided the Advertiser during the last few days. Mr. Williams' work is so good that it is a pleasure for artists to reproduce from his photographs.

NEW DISEASE OF PINEAPPLES.

Commissioner Marsden Gives a Statement About It.

If any of the Pines Brought Here From Australia Are Found to Have the Disease, They Will Be Condemned.

OFFICE OF THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

MR. EDITOR: I have received an account from Prof. Koebele, who has lately visited Queensland, of a disease that is killing the pineapple plants in that country.

The disease is a fungus that prevents the plant from fruiting, finally killing the plant.

Fungus diseases are the most difficult to combat, and no remedy has been found for the pest in Queensland.

I wish to give notice to all persons who intend to import pineapple plants from Australia, that all such plants will be rigidly examined, and if any of the plants are found to be affected, the whole lot will be condemned and destroyed. The introduction of this disease among the pineapple plantations on these islands would ruin the industry, and it would be a wise plan for all pineapple growers to refrain from importing pineapple plants from Australia.

The following account taken from the American Agriculturist clearly sets forth the nature of the disease, and the appearances by which it may be detected.

A disease which prevents pineapples from fruiting, and slowly kills the plants, has appeared in Queensland, Australia. H. Tryon reports (R. '93) that the dark green of the leaves is changed to yellow and red, they wilt and twist, grow slowly, and the sparse fruit which sets soon turns yellow. The plant lives for months on the food stored in the stem, but finally decays at the root and dies. In the first stage the roots are normal in appearance, but the root hairs, instead of being simple cylinders, now end bluntly, are terminally twisted and club-shaped. The expanded tips contain granular matter. In the second stage, the unwooded parts of the young roots are discolored at the tips, and collapse on pressure. In the third stage, the root tips have turned brown and are very soft. In the fourth stage, all the young and many of the woody roots are brown and granular, very brittle, and soon die and decay. The cause of the disease is a fungus which is parasitic within the root tissue. This colorless fungus consists essentially of an intricate network of mycelium supporting conidia, composed of two rounded elements having a double contour. The conidia may be almost sessile upon the mycelium, or may be supported on slender pedicels of greater or less length. They are readily detached, and are generally found existing with the mycelium isolated in the tissues and vessels, either with two combined or simple spores. The injurious operation of the fungus is dependent upon the prevalence of an unfavorable weather, or upon the pineapple plants being grown on clay soils. The disease is probably not communicable through the atmosphere by spores, but only by direct infection with the mycelium spawn. The character of the plants does not seem to influence the disease, nor previous or long cropping, nor the kind of fertilizer, nor the method of cultivation. In the case of clay soils, drainage will be beneficial, and in all cases E. M. Shelton advises the ploughing up of those plots which are infected, and the planting of other crops thereon for several years.

If any plants now growing on these islands should present any of the appearances described they should at once be rooted up and burnt. Any suspected plants sent to this office will be examined without charge.

J. MARSDEN,
Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry.



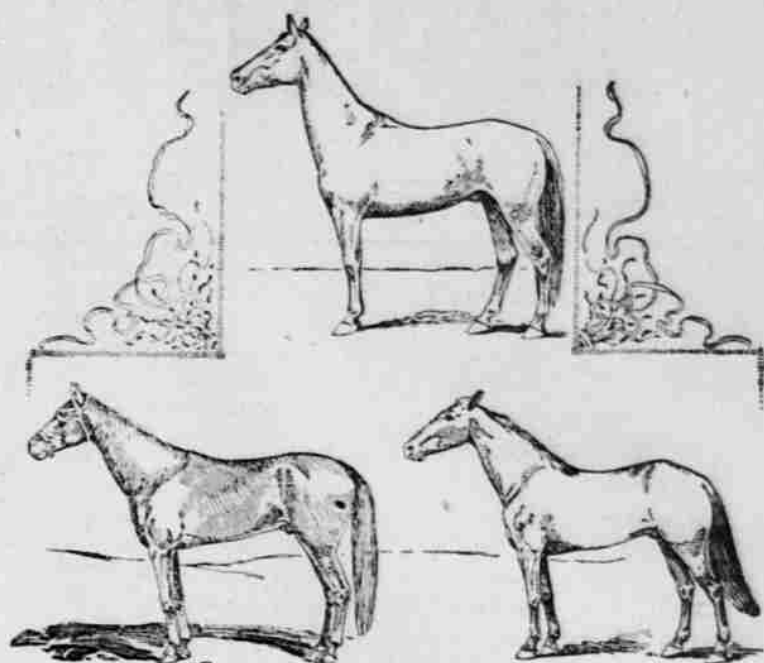
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